

RRRISE Catalyst Fund Proposal Developing a Climate Forward – Summary Sheet

Project Title: Developing a Climate Forward Workforce and Innovation Pipeline for Forest and Community Resilience

Lead Applicant: Forest WRX Alliance

Collaborator(s) (if applicable): Anew, Blue Lake Rancheria, Cal Poly Humboldt, Cloud Forest Institute, Foundation for California Community Colleges, Gelinas and James Consulting, Humboldt and Mendocino Redwood Companies, Lake County Resource Conservation District, The Watershed Research and Training Council, Redwood Forest Foundation, Mad River Mass Timber

Total Funding Request: \$968,989.00 (Staff: \$140,000; Staff Benefit costs: \$35,000; Travel: \$7,500; Furniture, Equipment, and Supplies: \$4,999; Automobile lease: \$7,500; Indirect costs: \$26,500; Total Funding for Sub-Awards: \$747,740)

Project Phase: ☐ Exploratory ☒ Last-mile

Region(s) Served: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Lake Counties

Location of Headquarter: Humboldt County

Primary Sector: Working Lands

Secondary Sector: Workforce Development

Project Summary (~250 words):

The Forest WRX Alliance proposal aims to enhance forest and community resilience in the Redwood Region by integrating workforce development, educational pathways, sustainable building solutions, and new funding streams. It includes four main components: Workforce Training Assessment & Dashboard Development, Climate Tech and Natural Resource Management Program, Mass Timber Manufacturing for Rural Housing, and Carbon Market Development.

The project focuses on addressing regional challenges such as workforce shortages, limited infrastructure, and wildfire risks. By fostering partnerships with Tribal organizations, educational institutions, and industry partners, this project plans to create systemic change in how the region approaches forest management, workforce development, and sustainable building practices. Success will be measured through workforce engagement, partnerships, and specific deliverables across all four main components, to be completed by September 2026. The proposal prioritizes equity by providing accessible training, integrating Traditional Ecological

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Knowledge (TEK), and creating pathways for economic opportunities, small business development, and sustainable housing solutions for underserved communities. The project creates thriving-wage jobs by developing workforce training, career pathways in sustainable construction and mass timber manufacturing, new educational programs at Cal Poly Humboldt, while opening new markets through carbon credits and expanding rural job opportunities and advancement. This also helps with sustainable economic growth by combining Traditional Ecological Knowledge with modern forestry practices, supporting sustainable building markets, and establishing the region as a leader in climate technology.

This project helps advance California's climate goals by reducing wildfire risk, supporting carbon sequestration in mass timber products that replace high-emission building materials, and integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge with sustainable practices and innovative carbon market mechanisms. To support historically excluded communities, this project will provide stipends for Tribal and community participation in the planning processes, ensure there is representation in all processes, and provide targeted support for those in rural or remote areas.